ernments; that good progress had been made in doing so; that the constitutional amendment abolishing slavery had feeen ratified by nearly all of them; that legislation to protect the rights of the f reedmen was in course of preparation in most of them; that indeed here and there the " demoralizing effects of the war " were still to be seen in " occasional disorders " which, however, were local, infrequent, and rapidly diminishing; and that, on the whole, the condition of things was promising and far better than might have been expected. He transmitted my report without a word of comment, but invited special atten-
tion to that of General Grant.

The appearance of General Grant's report was a surprise, which, however, easily explained itself. On November 22nd, the President had received my report. On the 27th General Grant, with the approval of the President, started on a " tour of inspection through some of the Southern States," to look after the " disposition of the troops," and also " to learn, as far as possible, the feelings and intentions of the citizens of those States towards the General Government." On the 12th of December the Senate asked for the transmission of my report. General Grant's report was dated on the 18th and on the 19th it was sent to the Senate together with mine. The supposition lay near, and it was generally believed that this arrangement was devised by President Johnson to the end of neutralizing the possible effect of my account of Southern

conditions. If so, it was cleverly planned. General Grant was at that time at the height of his popularity. He was, since Lincoln's death, by far the most imposing figure in the popular eye. Having forced the surrender of the formidable Lee, he was by countless tongues called " the savior of the Union." He enjoyed in an extraordinary degree the privilege of military heroes, to be endowed by^the popular imagination with all conceivable vir-
~ ". [207']